

# Mars Exploration Science Monthly Newsletter

A publication of the Mars Program Office and the Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG)

Issue: July 2011

## Mars Science News

### *Highlights of the First International MEPAG Meeting*

The first MEPAG meeting abroad was a solid international success. Hosted in Lisbon, Portugal, many members of the European science community were able to participate for the first time in the MEPAG forum. Over 100 attendees, from both sides of the Atlantic and from Asia, heard progress reports on a wide range of Mars activities, including insights into the Decadal Survey results for Mars, progress on the ESA-NASA joint program, JAXA Mars agency plans, a proposed landing site selection process for the 2018 mission based on the one used for MSL, planetary protection context and concerns, and reports from a number of recent conferences and workshops. Many attendees had participated in the Mars Habitability Conference, held in the same locale immediately before the MEPAG meeting, and several enjoyed a post-meeting field trip to the Rio Tinto area, a favored Mars analogue site here on Earth.

Highlights of the meeting included presentations by ESA and NASA agency personnel on progress of MSL and MAVEN, the 2016 Trace Gas Orbiter and the newly selected payload for its EDL Demonstrator Module (EDM). They also described ongoing efforts to develop a joint rover able to carry out the ExoMars in situ astrobiological investigations and the NASA caching science activities. MEPAG itself weighed in on the scientific goals and needs of the latter through its Mars sample return End-to-End international Science Analysis Group (E2E-iSAG). Members of this group gave an extended report at the meeting and participated in a panel discussion to engage the assembled scientists further. At this meeting MEPAG endorsed the preliminary conclusions and findings of the iSAG and eagerly awaits the final report, which is presently incorporating comments from designated reviewers and from the community. The final report is expected to be posted on the MEPAG website before the end of July. A letter report to the NASA Advisory Council's Planetary Sciences Subcommittee is also being prepared; look for it on the MEPAG website.

MEPAG would like to thank all those who contributed to this highly productive international meeting, especially in light of the tight travel budgets these days. Special thanks goes to the ESA Conference Bureau and to our local Portuguese hosts for providing excellent support to the MEPAG meeting.

#### **Near-term Due Dates (next three months)**

<b>Due</b>	<b>Project</b>
7/1	<b>2012 IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> abstracts deadline
7/12	<b>LEAG 2011</b> indication of interest deadline
7/15	<b>Meteor Crater Field Camp</b> application deadline
7/26	<b>Geological Society of America</b> abstracts deadline
7/29	<b>Second Moscow Solar System Symposium</b> abstracts deadline
8/4	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> abstracts deadline

8/5	<b>62<sup>nd</sup> Int'l Astronautical Congress</b> registration deadline
8/9	<b>First International Planetary Caves Workshop</b> abstracts deadline
8/10	<b>Venus Science Conference</b> abstracts deadline
8/16	<b>ASCE Earth and Space 2012</b> abstracts deadline
8/26	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> abstracts deadline
8/31	<b>2011 PERC Planetary Geology Field Symposium</b> abstracts deadline

## AGU Mars Focus Fall Sessions:

- P03 [Active Mars Surface Processes and the Role of Volatiles](#)  
P04 [Atmosphere of Mars: New Findings from Modeling and Observations](#)  
P12 [Hydrothermal Mars: Analogs and Observations](#)  
P17 [Mars Science Laboratory: Strategic Science at the Selected Field Site](#)  
P18 [Mars System Science: Integrating Martian Planetary Processes from the Subsurface to the Surface](#)  
P20 [Nanocrystalline Materials on Earth and Mars](#)  
P22 [Phyllosilicate Formation on Mars: Connecting Experimental and Theoretical Studies with Planetary Observations](#)  
P30 [Preparing for the Science of Mars Sample Return](#)

Returned samples may unlock wide-ranging questions about the geology, surface processes, and habitability of Mars that cannot be answered by study of meteorites or current mission data. The 2013-2022 NRC Decadal Survey has thus named its #1 Flagship priority as MAX-C, the first of a three-mission, multi-decadal effort to return samples from Mars. Continued support by the scientific community will be critical to the campaign's success. This session will highlight the large-scale implications of existing datasets with an eye toward what may be learned when samples are returned. Topics will span planetary science including high- and low-T geochemistry, igneous and sedimentary petrology, mineral spectroscopy, and astrobiology.

Conveners: Mariek Schmidt ([mschmidt2@brocku.ca](mailto:mschmidt2@brocku.ca)), Justin Filiberto ([Justin.Filiberto@rice.edu](mailto:Justin.Filiberto@rice.edu)), James Day ([jmdday@ucsd.edu](mailto:jmdday@ucsd.edu)), Charles Budney ([charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:charles.j.budney@jpl.nasa.gov))

## Upcoming Conferences and Workshops

Type	Date & Location	Event Information
<i>Third Quarter, 2011</i>		
	July 3-8, 2011 Montpellier, FRANCE	<b>ISSOL – The International Astrobiology Society an IAU C51 (Biastronomy) Joint International Conference</b> <a href="http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/">http://www.origins2011.univ-montp2.fr/</a>
	July 11-14, 2011 Cologne, GERMANY	<b>European Astrobiology Network Association (EANA) 2011</b> Planets and life: evolution and distribution <a href="http://www.eana2011.de/">http://www.eana2011.de/</a>
	July 17, 2011 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>LunGradCon 2011</b> First announcement of the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Lunar Graduate Conference to be held at NASA Ames Research Center preceding the NASA Lunar Science Forum. <a href="http://lasp.colorado.edu/cldas/lqc2011">http://lasp.colorado.edu/cldas/lqc2011</a>
	July 17-22, 2011 South Hadley, MA, USA	<b>2011 Gordon Research Conference on Origins of Solar Systems</b> Apply early because it is expected to be oversubscribed. <a href="http://www.grc.org">http://www.grc.org</a>

	July 19, 2011 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>Next Generation Lunar Scientists and Engineers Workshop</b> NASA Ames Research Center <a href="http://nextgenlunar.arc.nasa.gov/?q=lsf2011">http://nextgenlunar.arc.nasa.gov/?q=lsf2011</a>
	July 19-21, 2011 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Annual NASA Lunar Science Forum</b> NASA Ames Research Center
	August 8-12, 2011 Taipei, TAIWAN	<b>AOGS 2011 – Asia Oceania Geosciences Society</b> <i>PS08 Session</i> on Science and Exploration of Mars, where results of ongoing and future international missions to Mars will be discussed. <i>PS08 Session Information:</i> This session will address the latest results of the different ongoing missions in orbit around Mars as well as those on the surface of the red planet. It will cover all fields of research from the ionosphere and the atmosphere to the surface and interior of Mars. <a href="http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2011/public.asp?page=home.htm">http://www.asiaoceania.org/aogs2011/public.asp?page=home.htm</a>
	August 8-12, 2011 Greenwich, ENGLAND	<b>74th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Gretchen Benedix ( <a href="mailto:g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk">g.benedix@nhm.ac.uk</a> ) <a href="http://www.metsoc2011.org">http://www.metsoc2011.org</a>
	August 14-19, 2011 Prague, Czech Republic	<b>Goldschmidt 2011</b> <a href="http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/">http://www.goldschmidt2011.org/</a>
	August 25-26, 2011 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>(NASA) Small Bodies Assessment Group Meeting</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/sbag/meetings/</a>
	August 28 – September 1, 2011 Denver, CO, USA	<b>2011 American Chemical Society National Meeting (ACS)</b> <a href="http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&amp;pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&amp;node_id=395&amp;content_id=CNBP_026588&amp;use_sec=true&amp;sec_url_var=region1&amp;uuid=59eee62c-ccc8-49f8-ac9d-1e804c374630">http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&amp;pageLabel=PP_ARTICLEMAIN&amp;node_id=395&amp;content_id=CNBP_026588&amp;use_sec=true&amp;sec_url_var=region1&amp;uuid=59eee62c-ccc8-49f8-ac9d-1e804c374630</a>
	August 30-September 1, 2011 Chantilly, VA, USA	<b>9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of VEXAG and Venus Science Conference</b> Science Conference abstracts deadline August 10, 2011 <a href="http://venus.wisc.edu/workshop">http://venus.wisc.edu/workshop</a> or <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag</a>
	September 13, 2011	<b>Start of Mars Northern Spring</b>
	September 12-16, 2011 Fairbanks, AK, USA	<b>Fifth International Conference on Mars Polar Science and Exploration</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/polar2011/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/polar2011/</a>
	September 13-15, 2011 Monrovia, CA, USA	<b>Navigation and Ancillary Information Facility (NAIF)</b> Will conduct a SPICE observation geometry training class <a href="http://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/naif/announcement_SPICE-2011">http://naif.jpl.nasa.gov/naif/announcement_SPICE-2011</a>
	September 14-16, 2011 Flagstaff, AZ, USA	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Planetary Crater Consortium Meeting</b> Location: U.S. Geological Survey Abstracts deadline August 26, 2011 <a href="http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/PCCMeeting.htm">http://www.planetarycraterconsortium.nau.edu/PCCMeeting.htm</a>
	September 21-23, 2011 Barcelona, SPAIN	<b>COST CM-0805 Nitrogen in Planetary Systems: The Early Evolution of the Atmospheres of Terrestrial Planets: The Role of N<sub>2</sub></b> <a href="http://ulisse.busoc.be/cost/barcelona-meeting.php">http://ulisse.busoc.be/cost/barcelona-meeting.php</a>
	September 25-October 1, 2011 Barringer Meteorite Crater, AZ, USA	<b>Meteor Crater Field Camp</b> Field Training and Research Program at Meteor Crater Application deadline July 15, 2011 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/nlsi/mcFieldCamp/?view=program">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/nlsi/mcFieldCamp/?view=program</a>
<i>Fourth Quarter, 2011</i>		

	October 3-7, 2011 Nantes, FRANCE	<b>EPSC-DPS 2011</b> A joint meeting of the European Planetary Science Congress (EPSC) and the American Astronomical Society Division for Planetary Sciences (DPS) Session 8297 – Active Surface Processes on Mars <a href="http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc-dps2011/">http://meetings.copernicus.org/epsc-dps2011/</a>
	October 3-7, 2011 Capetown, SOUTH AFRICA	<b>62<sup>nd</sup> International Astronautical Congress 2011</b> <a href="http://iac2011.com">http://iac2011.com</a>
	October 9-12, 2011 Minneapolis, MN, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b> Abstracts deadline July 26, 2011 <a href="http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/">http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/</a>
	October 10-14, 2011 Moscow, RUSSIA	<b>Second Moscow Solar System Symposium</b> Abstract deadline July 29, 2011 <a href="http://ms2011.cosmos.ru/">http://ms2011.cosmos.ru/</a>
	October 25-28, 2011 Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA	<b>First International Planetary Caves Workshop: Implications for Astrobiology, Climate, Detection, and Exploration</b> Abstracts deadline August 9, 2011 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/caves2011/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/caves2011/</a>
	<b>Update</b> November 5-6, 2011 Kitakyushu City, JAPAN	<b>2011 PERC Planetary Geology Field Symposium</b> Also, field trip to volcanic zone in central Kyushu island November 7-9. Deadline for registration and abstracts submission is August 31, 2011 <a href="http://www.perc.it-chiba.ac.jp/meetings/pgfs2011/">http://www.perc.it-chiba.ac.jp/meetings/pgfs2011/</a>
	November 7-9, 2011 Houston, TX, USA	<b>Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG 2011)</b> Submit Indication of Interest form by July 12, 2011 <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leag2011/">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/leag2011/</a>
	November 15-17, 2011 Moffett Field, CA, USA	<b>Mars Recent Climate Change Workshop</b> NASA Ames Research Center <a href="http://spacescience.arc.nasa.gov/mars-climate-workshop-2011/">http://spacescience.arc.nasa.gov/mars-climate-workshop-2011/</a>
	November 25- December 18, 2011	<b>MSL Launch Period</b>
	December 5-9, 2011 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b> Session P05: Coordinated Mineralogy and Morphology Studies of Martian Aqueous Deposits Session P20: Nanocrystalline Materials on Earth and Mars Session P22: Phyllosilicate Formation on Mars – Connecting Experimental and Theoretical Studies with Planetary Observations Abstracts deadline August 4, 2011 <a href="http://www.agu.org/meetings">www.agu.org/meetings</a>
<b>2012</b>		
	March 3-10, 2012 Big Sky, MT, USA	<b>2012 IEEE Aerospace Conference</b> Big Sky Resort Abstracts deadline July 1, 2011 <a href="http://www.aeroconf.org">http://www.aeroconf.org</a>
	March 19-23, 2012 The Woodlands, TX, USA	<b>43<sup>rd</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b> <a href="http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2012">http://www.lpi.usra.edu/meetings/lpsc2012</a>
	March 30, 2012	<b>Start of Mars Northern Summer</b>

	April 15-18, 2012 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>ASCE Earth and Space 2012</b> There will be 8 symposiums, including Exploration and Utilization of Extraterrestrial Bodies and 5 <sup>th</sup> NASA/ASCE Workshop on Granular Materials in Space Exploration. Abstracts due August 16, 2011 <a href="http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2012/index.html">http://content.asce.org/conferences/earthspace2012/index.html</a>
	May 21-25, 2012 Carson City, NV, USA	<b>Third International Conference on Early Mars: Geologic and Hydrologic Evolution, Physical and Chemical Environments, and the Implications for Life</b>
	July 14-22, 2012 Mysore, INDIA	<b>COSPAR 2012 Scientific Assembly</b> Abstracts deadline – mid-February 2012 <a href="http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm">http://cosparhq.cnes.fr/Meetings/sciass.htm</a>
	August 2012 Cairns, Queensland AUSTRALIA	<b>75th Annual Meeting of the Meteoritical Society</b> Contact: Trevor Ireland <a href="http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings">http://www.meteoriticalsociety.org/simple_template.cfm?code=news_meetings</a>
	August 2012 Brisbane, AUSTRALIA	<b>The 34<sup>th</sup> International Geological Congress</b> <a href="http://www.33igc.org/">http://www.33igc.org/</a>
	August 6-20, 2012	<b>MSL Landing</b>
	September 29, 2012	<b>Start of Mars Northern Fall</b>
	October 14-19, 2012 Reno, NV, USA	<b>44<sup>th</sup> DPS Annual Meeting</b>
	November 4-7, 2012 Charlotte, NC, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>
	December 10-14, 2012 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b>
<i>2013</i>		
	March 2013	<b>44<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
	July 2013 Pasadena, CA, USA	<b>8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Mars</b> California Institute of Technology
	October 27-30, 2013 Denver, CO, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>
	November 18, 2013	<b>MAVEN Launch Period Opens</b>
	December 9-13, 2013 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b>
<i>2014</i>		
	March 2014	<b>45<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
	October 19-22, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia, CANADA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>
	December 15-19, 2014 San Francisco, CA, USA	<b>AGU Fall Meeting</b>
<i>2015</i>		

March 2015	<b>46<sup>th</sup> Lunar and Planetary Science Conference</b>
November 1-4, 2015 Baltimore, MD, USA	<b>Geological Society of America Annual Meeting</b>

Special holidays to consider when scheduling conferences/workshops/meetings:

Good Friday	4/22/2011	4/6/2012	3/29/2013	4/18/2014	4/3/2015
Rosh Hashanah	9/29/2011	9/17/2012	9/5/2013	9/25/2014	9/14/2015
Yom Kippur	10/8/2011	9/26/2012	9/14/2013	10/4/2014	9/23/2015
(Note that Jewish holidays start at sundown the previous evening).					
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.	11/24/2011	11/22/2012	11/28/2013	11/27/2014	11/26/2015
Thanksgiving Day, Canada	10/10/2011	10/8/2012	10/14/2013	10/13/2014	10/12/2015

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Please send your Mars Community Announcements and calendar items for inclusion in next month's email to Joyce Pulliam, [Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Joyce.N.Pulliam@jpl.nasa.gov), 818-393-0444.

All announcements listed in this newsletter will be posted on the MEPAG website, available at <http://mepag.jpl.nasa.gov>.